

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims as indicated. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Original) Climatic cabinet with an interior to hold specimen slides and with a transporting device to load and unload the interior with specimen slides and a loading opening for transporting the specimen slides through, during the loading and/or unloading, which is located in a climatic cabinet side wall surrounding the interior, is adapted in its size to the dimensions of the specimen slide, and has a door located on the outside of the loading opening which can be closed tightly, and in which a gas supply device is present so as to supply a gas flow in the area of the loading opening,

characterized in that the gas supply device has at least one gas exhaust opening, which is located in the area of the loading opening in such a way that the cross-section of the loading opening in the area of the gas exhaust openings is covered by a gas curtain when the gas is supplied.

2. (Original) Climatic cabinet according to Claim 1, characterized in that

the at least one gas exhaust opening is located in the area of the loading opening entry which points to the outside.

3. (Currently Amended) Climatic cabinet according to Claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, characterized in that

the at least one gas exhaust opening in the area of at least one of the loading opening walls, which defines the loading opening, discharges into the loading opening.

4. (Original) Climatic cabinet according to Claim 3, characterized in that
gas discharge openings are present in the area of several, in particular, opposite
loading opening walls, or all of the loading opening walls.

5. (Currently amended) Climatic cabinet according to Claim 3 ~~or~~ 4, characterized in
that

several rows of gas discharge openings are located behind one another.

6. (Currently amended) Climatic cabinet according to ~~one of Claims~~ Claim 3 ~~to~~ 5,
characterized in that

at least some of the gas discharge openings are oriented, at an incline, in the direction
of the outside of the climatic cabinet.

7. (Currently amended) Climatic cabinet according to ~~one of Claims~~ Claim 3 ~~to~~ 6,
characterized in that

at least in the areas into which gas exhaust openings discharge, the loading opening is
surrounded by a gas collecting chamber, which is linked with the gas exhaust openings and
which is connected to a gas supply conduit.

8. (Currently amended) Climatic cabinet according to ~~one of Claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to~~ 7,
characterized in that

the gas is an essentially anhydrous gas and/or an inert gas, in particular, nitrogen.

9. (Currently amended) Climatic cabinet according to ~~one of Claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to 8~~, characterized in that

the at least one gas conduit for the tempering, which is used as the supply conduit of the gas to the at least one gas exhaust opening, is conducted through the interior and/or the heat exchanger area of the climatic cabinet.

10. (Currently amended) Climatic cabinet according to ~~one of Claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to 9~~, characterized in that

the at least one gas exhaust opening is located outside the loading opening, adjacent to the loading opening entry pointing to the outside.

11. (Original) Climatic cabinet according to Claim 10, characterized in that

gas exhaust openings are located along at least two opposite sides at the entry of the loading opening.

12. (Currently amended) Climatic cabinet according to ~~one of Claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to 11~~, characterized in that

at least one gas exhaust opening is integrated into the door which closes the loading opening.

13. (Currently amended) Climatic cabinet according to ~~one of Claims~~ Claim 9 ~~to 12~~, characterized in that

the at least one gas exhaust opening is oriented, at an incline, in the direction away from the climatic cabinet.

14. (Currently amended) Climatic cabinet according to ~~one of Claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to 13~~, characterized in that

it has a control device, which controls a control valve in the gas supply device in such a way that the gas supply is coupled to the opening of the door which closes the loading opening.

15. (Original) Climatic cabinet according to Claim 14, characterized in that

the control device is constructed in such a way that the gas supply begins during or shortly before the opening of the door begins and is ended after the closing of the door.

16. (Currently amended) Climatic cabinet according to ~~one of Claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to 15~~, characterized in that

the door is an automatically opening and closing door.

17. (Currently amended) Climatic cabinet according to ~~one of Claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to 16~~, characterized in that

the control device is constructed, so as to regulate the gas supply, as a function of the climatic conditions in the interior and outside the climatic cabinet and, in particular, as a function of the temperature difference between the interior and exterior.

18. (Currently amended) Climatic cabinet according to ~~one of Claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to 17~~, namely, a climatic cooling cabinet.